

Boater Information System

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Researchers at the Applied Physics Laboratory, University of Washington are building a prototype Boater Information System (BIS) to help boaters access the best weather and oceanographic information for Puget Sound waterways. The system is based on a cognitive task analysis of users and their tasks in planning trips on the water. BIS will give sailors, power boaters, kayakers, fishermen, windsurfers, and kite boarders their own web portal tailored to their selected information needs. BIS will be destination-driven so boaters can plan trips with information specific to where they're going. BIS will deliver over the Web new high-resolution weather forecasting tools based on state-of-the-art weather models, plus current weather and historical observations. BIS is a venue for communicating university-level science to the public and making it readily accessible and useful to them. Through face-to-face interaction with boaters, BIS researchers have surveyed users about their boating practices and their needs for being out on the water. Through a citizen advisory board researchers continue to interpret data as they design a system that promotes safe use of Puget Sound. The BIS poster will present an overview, survey data, and its significance for the development of an interactive Web system for boaters' everyday use.